

Claims

I claim:

1. A tailgate step, comprising:

at least a first hinge, the first hinge affixed within a vehicle tailgate;

at least a first support member, the first support member having a first end and a second end, the first end pivotally attached to the first hinge; and

at least a first step member, the first step member attached to the first support member.

2. A tailgate step as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first support member and the first step member pivot between a working position and a stored position.

3. A tailgate step as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a storage channel, at least a portion of the storage channel disposed within the tailgate and operable to contain at least portions of the first support member and the first step member when the first support member and the first step member are in the stored position.

4. A tailgate step as claimed in claim 2, wherein the step member is vertically positioned between the tailgate and ground level when in the working position.

5. A tailgate step as claimed in claim 2, wherein the step member is rigidly positioned between the tailgate and ground level when in the working position.

6. A tailgate step as claimed in claim 1; further comprising a second hinge and a second support member, the second hinge affixed within the vehicle tailgate, the second support member having a first end and a second end, the first end of the second support

member pivotally attached to the second hinge, the first step member attached to the second support member.

7. A tailgate step, comprising:

a first hinge and a second hinge, the first hinge and the second hinge affixed within a vehicle tailgate;

a first support member and a second support member, the first support member having a first end and a second end, the first end of the first support member pivotally attached to the first hinge, the second support member having a first end and a second end, the first end of the second support member pivotally attached to the second hinge;

at least a first step member, the first step member attached to the second end of the first support member and to the second end of the second support member;

a storage channel, the storage channel disposed within the tailgate and operable to contain first support member, the second support member, and the first step member.

7. A tailgate step as claimed in claim 7, wherein the storage channel is formed into the tailgate.

8. A tailgate step, comprising:

means for supporting a mass at a vertical position between a vehicle tailgate and ground level;

means for pivoting the means for supporting a mass between a working position and a stored position, at least a portion of the means for pivoting affixed within the vehicle tailgate; and

means for storing at least a portion of the means for supporting a mass within the vehicle tailgate.